Golden Quadrilateral Project

1962. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ascertained the reasons for abnormal delay in the completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, the action taken to complete the Golden Quadrilateral Project as per revised schedule;

(c) whether the quantity of roads constructed under Golden Quadrilateral Project is sub-standard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure compliance of quality control norms in the construction of roads, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has completed 5701 km length out of 5846 km length of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I. The delays in some of the stretches are due to time taken in rescinding and re-awarding of contracts of non-performing contractors, land acquisition and in obtaining requisite clearances etc. For the stretches included in the balance length of 145 km, 11 contracts on GQ have been terminated due to consistent non-performance by the contractors and work has already been re-awarded in 9 contracts. NHAI is also constantly monitoring the progress of work by holding regular review meetings with contractors and consultants with a view to ensure expeditious completion of work.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in order to ensure quality and maintenance of standards, supervision consultants/independent consultants have been appointed on all contracts. NHAI officers also carry out inspection checks on site, in keeping with the specifications prescribed in the contract.

Accidents on expressways

†1963. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether express highways in the country are becoming the sites of deadly accidents these days;

(b) the number of accidents that took place last year, and the extent of loss of life and property caused by such accidents;

(c) the efforts being made by Government to check these accidents; and

(d) the suggestions being given by National Highways Authority of India and Central Road Research Institute in this regard alongwith the action being taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.